

# Money Talked About

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## Think a Fiduciary Guarantees Your Retirement? Think Again

**Conventional strategies may keep your money invested but leave your lifetime income at risk.**

We're told to "find a fiduciary," but the term often carries more marketing weight than practical meaning. Most advisers are licensed to guide investments—not retirement income, insurance, or estate planning.

Even within their scope, advice can feel solid while leaving serious gaps. Many retirees rely on conventional strategies, like the 4% withdrawal rule, which keeps most assets invested while leaving their retirement income vulnerable. The adviser may fully believe this approach is in the client's best interest—and it meets the fiduciary standard—but its likelihood of success over a long retirement is far from guaranteed.

The tension is clear: strategies designed to preserve portfolio value can work against creating a reliable lifetime income stream. Clients may assume they have a complete plan, when critical income and risk protection needs remain unaddressed.

A fiduciary label doesn't guarantee a full plan. Take a hard look at your strategy, ask the right questions, and make sure your retirement plan truly addresses all your long-term needs—not just what falls under a securities license.

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